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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 June 1948

SUBJECT

Russian Troop Maneuvers in Mecklenburg

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Since 18 April 1948 the Russians have been holding large-scale maneuvers in the southwestern part of Mecklenburg. Strong Russian forces were taken from the areas around Wittenburg, Hegenow, Lübben, and Dömitz westward to the Elbe area. From there they advanced east to the Hagenow-Ludwigslust railway line, where they met combat forces from Schwerin and Ludwigslust in "heavy battle" for the Hagenow-Ludwigslust railway line.
2. The battle was continuing on 23 April. All branches were involved, but the principal forces were motorized infantry with machine guns, mortars, and flame throwers. There were also tanks which had been brought under their own power from the forest areas near Lübben to the village of Picher, where they joined the advance toward the east. They were all of the "Stalin-armored" type.
3. Damage to the fields has been avoided as far as possible, and there has been no demand for troop quarters, since the soldiers sleep outdoors.
4. Fighter planes were used in the maneuvers, but no bombers or transport planes. On 13 April parachute troops jumped about 10 km south of Schwerin. The parachute troops came from Pritzwalk.
5. On 13 April 1948, 300 parachute troops were dropped from planes between the town of Platte and Banskov (T-65). These towns are south of the Schwerin-Crivitz railway line. About twenty-five transport planes flew from south to north. Weapons and materiel were also dropped by parachute. The road from Schwerin to Ludwigslust between Haselholz and Ortkrug was closed to all civilian traffic from 0900 hours to 1400 hours. After landing, the parachute troops formed into combat units which attacked a fictitious enemy toward the east. The Russian parachute troops are for the most part stationed in the Buchholz Forest, all roads to which are closed to civilian traffic. The transport planes are at the Pritzwalk airfield in Brandenburg, where some parachute units are also presumably stationed. Other sources report that the parachute units which participated in the maneuvers came from the area between Rostock and Warnemünde. However,

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this is not likely because only fighter formations are stationed in this area, and no bombers or transport planes.

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Comment: For further information on troop indentifications in Mecklenburg

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